

FEMA REGION V

short notes on planning #25

IDENTIFICATION OF PROJECTS

Second to the Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment sections of a Mitigation Plan, Identification of Projects is the most important part of the plan. The Projects are the actions that accomplish the damage reduction that is the purpose of the mitigation plan.

There are many types of project that can be put in a plan. In fact, a good plan will have multiple types of projects. By types of projects, we mean:

- Projects funded by FEMA;
- Projects funded by other Federal or State agencies;
- Projects funded by the community;
- Projects funded by Non-Government Organizations;
- Projects that include modification of structures;
- Projects that remove structures from an area at risk;
- Projects to modify the infrastructure of the community;
- Projects to modify terrain;
- Projects to further identify risks;
- Projects that include the adoption of new ordinances, plans or codes; or projects that amend existing ordinances, plans or codes;
- Projects that include financial incentives to mitigate;
- Projects to educate the public.

As you can see, the multiple types of projects open up a wide range of possibilities, and we haven't even discussed the site-specific projects. This leads to the obvious question: ***“What projects should a community pick in order to reduce damages?”***

Since no one knows your community as good as you, we are not going to even think of telling you what to chose. However, we are going to give you some guidelines to help in making your decision:

1. Before making a decision regarding prioritization of the projects, decide on a vision of what you want your community to be like after all of the projects are complete. This will give you a measuring stick to determine whether the project meets the community's needs.
2. Look at the funding sources for the plan and the projects. If the plan is being prepared to make the community eligible for a certain program, you must ensure that you include fundable projects in the plan.
3. You need the public's support for almost everything that you do in the community. How are you going to educate and include the public in the planning process?
4. How long will the project take to complete and does one project have to be completed before another can begin? You may wish to include both long-range and short-term projects, so that you make progress in reducing the risk.
5. Do you need someone else's approval, such as permits, before you can begin a project?
6. Include projects that deal with the existing built-environment and future development. Don't try to correct the past, without making sure that you don't make things worse in the future.

Remember, if you want your plan to be a useful document, it should be a living document. This means it should be reviewed for progress and projects should be added and removed as needed.